

Minutes, DPW/Fire Advisory Committee, June 9, 2016

Attendance: *Committee:* Lynn Griesemer, Chair; Christine Gray-Mullen, Peter Gray-Mullen; Kay Moran; Edward Mone, Robert Ricard, William Mullin. *Town*

Representatives: Guilford Mooring, DPW; Amy Rusiecki, DPW; Claire McGinnis, Finance; Tim Nelson, Fire (arrived 4:05). **Public:** Larry Kelley

Location: First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall. Meeting commenced at 3:02 pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting, May 19, 2016, were modified and accepted 6-0-1.
Next meetings scheduled: June 15, 2016 3:00-5:00; June 30, 3:00-5:00.

Report on DPW Facility: Guilford Mooring used the material from Weston and Sampson's presentation to the Select Board to review the study done for the DPW facility. This slide show covered the deficiencies and risks present in the present DPW facility in carrying out the multiple roles played by the DPW. The report showed what new facilities are needed and studied the various sites in Amherst that are suitable. The top choices are the Fort River School site, a site off Farm Road, and one at Ball Lane.

The discussion of the report covered several items relevant the next steps in getting a facility building to open by the projected construction start date of Spring 2019:

1. Peter Gray-Mullen asked how much might the DPW grow in the next 20 years? Mr. Mooring suggested that two or three new roles might be added and expected perhaps 10-15 new employees. New regulations may require more staff, such as, the recent addition of an environmental scientist.
2. What might the committee do to make the major role of the DPW more visible in the Town so its needs are more evident?
3. Lynn Griesemer noted that the relationship to the needs of the Fire Department are important here since the S. Pleasant St. DPW site seems the only feasible place for a new station.
4. Kay Moran pointed out that Sandy Pooler, former Finance Director, had constructed a spreadsheet that showed financial information on the four major building projects in Amherst: Jones Library, new elementary school, DPW facility, and new fire station.
5. The School Department has asked the DPW to maintain its vehicles, adding to its duties. Moreover, the LSSE uses DPW indoor space for set construction, requiring outdoor storage of some additional department vehicles.

Possible next steps: Next meeting will be a presentation on the previous planning for a new fire station. This study does not have the same level of detail as that for the DPW facility. Thus a possible goal is to go to Fall 2016 Town Meeting to request funds to make a study equivalent to that by Weston and Sampson. The first step in this process, as pointed out by Mr. Mooring, is to appoint an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and to advertise for a designer.

Whether to take these next steps in this process can be discussed at the next meeting. At the next meeting we will also look the Pooler spreadsheet analysis as well as the fire station planning.